

JUN 19 1974

Mr. Wm. Malcolm Towson
City Attorney
Town of East Dublin
105 North Franklin Street
Dublin, Georgia 31021

Dear Mr. Towson:

This is in reference to your letter of April 10, 1974, notifying the Attorney General that the East Dublin Council had voted to suspend elections scheduled for November, 1974. Your letter of notification, received April 20, 1974, is being considered as a submission to the Attorney General pursuant to Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Our analysis shows that the election on November 14, 1973, was conducted pursuant to changes in election law which had not been reviewed by either the Department of Justice or the District Court for the District of Columbia as required by Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. When, in January 1974, those changes were submitted to the Attorney General for review, an objection was entered on his behalf by my letter of March 4, 1974, on the ground that we were unable to conclude that implementation of the numbered posts and staggered terms would not have a racially discriminatory effect. In view of that objection, we conclude that the decision to continue in office for an extra year a majority of the members of the council whose election is legally unenforceable in the first instance is contra to the

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intent and purpose of the Voting Rights Act. Accordingly, the Attorney General must interpose an objection to the decision to postpone the election of council members until November, 1975.

As I advised you in my letter of March 4, 1974, the Attorney General is charged under the Voting Rights Act of 1965 with the responsibility for taking necessary legal action to insure compliance with the Act. I would therefore appreciate being advised within 30 days of the date of this letter as to the steps you intend to take in order to satisfy the objections of March 4, 1974, and this date.

Sincerely,

J. STANLEY POTTINGER
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division